Departments/agencies and socio economic Ministries.

- R&D support to scientists in priority areas of Research.
- Encouragement to Young Scientists; Fellowships for training in India and abroad in specialised and advanced areas of research, increased fellowship amounts for Junior and Senior Research Fellows, Research Associates and others.
- Creation of National research facilities and Strengthening of basic infrastructure for research.
- Special support for research in less endowed academic institutions.
- International collaborative research programmes and opportunities to use large scale research facilities abroad.
- Tax incentives for promoting R&D in industries.
- Scheme to enable National Research laboratories and Institutions to seek funds for R&D from Industries and reward them with matching grants.
- Recent initiative in the form of Swarna Jayanti Fellowships on the occasion of 50th year of Independence, for supporting outstanding scientists to attain world class levels in science.

(b) The S&T organisations and establishments have flexibility in their functioning and have their own Research Councils and Governing bodies to provide guidance and directions.

Steps to popularise science and technology

1370. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: SHRI GOVIND RAM MIRI: SHRI SHIV CHARAN SINGH:

Will the MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) The details of steps taken/contemplated to popularise Science and Technology at school level;

(b) details of methodology of popularising Science and Technology; and

(c) what steps have been taken to ensure that results of research are faithfully transferred to agriculture and industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) The Government has been popularising Science & Technology (S&T) at school level through a host of programmes that include developing adapting and promoting diverse methodologies for the purpose. The agencies engaged in popularisation of S&T at school level include the National Council of Educational Research & Training (NCERT) under Department of Education, MHRD, National Council for Science & Technology Communication (NCSTC) under Department of Science & Technology, and National Council of Science Museums under Department of Culture, MHRD; and at the state level, the State Directorates of Education and Departments of Science & Technology.

(b) The basic methodology consists of reaching school children directly or through media and engaging them in activities which would trigger an interest in science and help them nurture and retain a scientific outlook. This is achieved through programmes like the annual National Children's Science Congress, production of films and TV serials for school children, scientific toys/kits, and publications on scientific topics. National Science exhibitions, organised every year by NCERT at the state and national levels have contributed in children's involvement with innovative project activities in S&T. The NCSM is engaged in setting up national, regional, state and district level science centres

throughout the country and organising science activities for children.

(c) Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR), through its network of 261 Krishi Vigyan Kendras in the country ensure effective transfer of the results of R&D to agriculture, alongwith agriculture universities, mis includes demonstration of technologies to farmers, training and on-farm testing of technologies on farmers' fields.

To ensure that the results of research are transferred to industry, the steps taken include assignment of successfully completed projects to National Research and Development Corporation (NRDC) for technology transfer to industries, development of linkages between research establishments and industries, and through S&T entrepreneurship .development programmes. A Technology Development Board has been set up in 1996 under Department of Science & Technology to provide financial assistance to the industrial concerns attempting commercial application of technologies, both indigenous and imported.

Intellectual Property Rights

1371. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government are aware of the report. published in the Indian Ex press dated 22nd May, 1997 captioned, "Scientists see a threat in Wisner re mark";

(b) If so, whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the warning by the US Ambassador, Frank Wisner that cooperation between Indian and American scientists could be jeopardised unless India tightened its intellectual property rights (IPR) regime; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) There are some differences on the intellectual property rights which have had an impact on efforts to work out a new science and technology agreement between India and the USA. Cooperation in science and technology between the two countries has been an ongoing process through last four decades, primarily at the level of scientific agencies, and also under the Indo-US Sub-Commission on Science & Technology. This cooperation continues. Indian position on intellectual property rights, based on the social and economic requirements of the country, is known to the US side.

New Steel Plants during the Ninth Five Year Plan

1372. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up some new public sector big/medium/ small steel plants in the country during the Ninth Five Year Plan period;

(b) if so, the details alongwith locations thereof, State-wise;

(c) the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon, plant-wise;

(d) the criteria for selection of any site in the State;

(e) the quantity of steel likely to be increased by setting up any new steel plant alongwith period > thereof; and

(f) the number of pending applications for setting up of new steel plants particularly from North Eastern States and by when these are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a), to (e) According to the New Industrial